39/646899 #H

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

TOMOKO MAEDA ET AL

: ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION

SERIAL NO: NEW APPLICATION

(Based on PCT/JP99/01803)

FILED: HEREWITH

FOR: METHODS FOR ISOLATION OF:

OSTEOCLAST PRECURSOR CELLS AND INDUCING THEIR DIFFERENTIATION INTO

OSTEOCLASTS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 3, line 1, delete "or 2".

Claim 7, liné 2, delete "or 6".

Claim 8, line 2, delete "or 6".

Claim 10, line 1, delete "or 9".

Claim 12, lines 1-2, replace "any one of claims 1 to 4 and 8 to 11" with --claim 1--.

Claim 13, line 3, delete "or 6".

Claim 15, lines 2-3, replace "any one of claims 1 to 4 and 8 to 11" with --claim 1--.